

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-19 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 18 being the independent claims. New claim 19 is sought to be added. Claims 1 and 18 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regard as the invention. Without acquiescing to the merits of this allegation, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 to clarify the subject matter therein. Claims 2-17 are dependent on amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,892,052 granted to Kotola et al ("Kotola"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Kotola fails to disclose each and every feature of amended independent claim 18. Specifically, Kotola fails to disclose a "radio frequency apparatus with an antenna comprising a tag emulating circuit operative to respond to radio frequency reader apparatus; and a reader circuit operative to operate as a radio frequency reader device, wherein the tag emulating circuit and the reader circuit share the antenna" as recited in amended independent claim 18.

Kotola discloses using two antennas. The first antenna is an antenna film or coil connected to a microchip. Kotola, Column 7, lines 55-57. The second antenna is used to transmit an interrogation signal. Kotola, Column 8, lines 1-3. As pointed in the Applicant's specification, a dual antenna device, such as disclosed in Kotola, has problems due to the inherently different properties of the tag and reader antennas. Specification, ¶¶ 0004, 0011. Applicant's invention, as recited in amended independent claim 18, solves these problems through a "single antenna solution." Specification, ¶ 0011. As described in the applicant's specification, the use of an internal generating means for generating a RF signal dependent on the incoming RF signal provides an arrangement whereby it is possible to emulate tag functionality without needing a conventional tag antenna arrangement. Specification, ¶ 0011.

Thus, Kotola does not disclose "a radio frequency apparatus with an antenna comprising a tag emulating circuit operative to respond to radio frequency reader apparatus; and a reader circuit operative to operate as a radio frequency reader device, wherein the tag emulating circuit and the reader circuit share the antenna" as recited in amended claim 18. For at least these reasons, amended independent claim 18 is patentable over Kotola. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2 and 7-17

Claims 1-2 and 7-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kotola in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,649,295 granted to Shober et al ("Shober"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and provides the following arguments to support patentability.

Kotola fails to disclose each and every element of amended independent claim 1. Claim 1 is amended to recite:

RFID apparatus with an antenna comprising:

a transmitter operative to transmit a first RF signal via the antenna to an external tag device;

a receiver operative to receive a second RF signal from the external tag device via the antenna; and

a tag emulation generator operative to generate a third RF signal dependent upon characteristics of an incoming fourth RF signal received from an external reader device, and transmit the generated third RF signal using the antenna to the external reader device.

As discussed above, Kotola discloses using two antennas. The first one is an antenna film or coil connected to a microchip. Kotola, Column 7, lines 55-57. The second antenna is used to transmit an interrogation signal. Kotola, Column 8, lines 1-3. Therefore, Kotola fails to disclose "a transmitter operative to transmit a first RF signal via the antenna.....; and a tag emulation generator operative to generate a third RF signal...., and transmit the generated third RF signal using the antenna to the external reader device."

Shober fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kotola relative to claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Kotola and Shober. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 7-17 depend from amended independent claim 1. For at least the above reasons and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 2 and 7-17 are patentable over the combination of Kotola and Shober. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to claims 2 and 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 3-6

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kotola in view Shober and further in view of U.S Patent No. 6,697,345 granted to Corrigan, III et al ("Corrigan"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and provides the following arguments to support patentability.

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Claims 3-6 depend from amended independent claim 1. Corrigan fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kotola and Shober relative to amended independent claim 1. For at least the above reasons and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 3-6 are patentable over the combination of Kotola, Shober, and Corrigan. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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